SB761
U7P3
#89-8

United States Department Of Agriculture | Forest Service | Shasta-Trinity National Forests

Reply To: 3420 Date: May 4, 1989

Subject: Evaluation of Possible POC Root Disease Near No Man's Creek, Happy Camp RD (Report No. N89-8)

To: Forest Supervisor, Klamath National Forest

On May 1, 1989, Dave Schultz, Susan Frankel, and I visited an area of Port-Orford-cedar mortality to evaluate the possibility of POC root disease (caused by Phytophthora lateralis) being present. The suspect area is in T. 15 N., R. 6 E., section 4 off of road 15N32. The Region had received a letter from Mr. Tim McKay, North Coast Environmental Center, in November 1988 describing this area and the possibility of the presence of the disease. The District examined this area in August 1988 and concluded that the cause of mortality was the change in the drainage pattern resulting from construction of a fireline in 1987.

Our examination did not reveal any evidence of POC root disease involved in this mortality. I concur with the conclusions of District personnel that the mortality was the result of increased water levels due to fireline construction. It is feasible that the fungus was introduced to the site during fireline construction and characteristic symptoms are not being expressed because of the high water effects, but this does not seem likely. However, there are several POC along the drainage on the other side of the fireline below the pond that should indicate if the disease is present, probably within a year or two. We will continue to monitor these trees for infection in the unlikely event the fungus is present.

While on the District, we also examined POC along the Grayback Road (40S07) up to the Siskiyou NF boundary. At milepost 2.0 there is a pocket of dead and dying POC on the east side of the road. This pocket has previously been examined and no evidence of root disease was found. We also did not find evidence of root disease and conclude that much of the mortality is a result of road reconstruction and changes in the drainage pattern. Cedar bark beetles (Phloeosinus sequoiae) were found in some of the dying trees and may be at sufficient levels to be causing damage to nearby POC. A short distance up the road on the west side several dying POC were observed. Mortality appears to be a result of bark beetles, drought, and disturbance from harvesting activities and does not involve POC root disease.

If you have any questions, need further assistance, or locate other possible POC root disease centers, please contact me at the Shasta-Trinity S.O. (916) 246-5101.

GREGG A. DeNITTO
Forest Pathologist
Northern CA FPM Service Area

LIBRARY COPY
ROCKY MT. FOREST & RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION